

# Stop the Wars

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May 22, 2006

For immediate release:

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## **Widespread Rejection of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at Boston College**

*Faith-based communities, antiwar activists, campus community unite to reject Iraq War advocate as commencement speaker, recipient of honorary doctorate*

Boston—Activists from the Stop the Wars Coalition will join students, staff and faculty from Boston College and other universities to protest the choice of Condoleezza Rice as commencement speaker for this year's graduation ceremony at Boston College.

The rally will start at 9 a.m. on Monday (Cleveland Circle, march to Visitors Entrance), the day of the graduation ceremony, and continue till noon. Ms. Kaveri Rajaraman, a graduate student at Harvard, said "Innumerable deaths are a direct consequence of the Bush Administration and Condoleezza Rice's policies in the Middle East and beyond. It is simply unconscionable that Boston College would honor her in this city."

"Without realizing it, Boston College has helped reignite the voice of dissent on America's campuses," adds Ms. Kim Foltz of Massachusetts Global Action.

Father Daniel Berrigan—Vietnam antiwar activist—condemns the award as "anti-Catholic," noting that Ms. Rice's work "...includes planning, executing, publicly defending a war condemned by the Pope; a war whose chief victims are Iraqi children, women, the ill and the aged."

"Ms. Rice," he concludes, "richly deserves a Dishonorable Degree."

The rally will feature music, speeches and anti-war visuals. Major theologians and regional activists are expected to be at the rally as are major religious figures.

The decision to award an honorary degree in Law to Rice and invite her to address the graduating students has already led to a storm of protest. A student petition demanding that her invitation be rescinded gathered hundreds of signatures as did a faculty letter of opposition. Steve Almond, an adjunct professor of English resigned his post to protest the invitation.

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May 21, 2006

Message from Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

Honoring the Secretary of State in this year of protracted war, surely ranks Boston College high on the score of academic opportunism.

Harvard produced Henry Kissinger and the international scourge from East Timor to Chile. Stanford gave us Ms. Rice, who bids fair to equal the Kissinger record for mendacity, subversion and blood letting.

Secretaries of State seldom initiate international policies. They are, after all, secretaries; as someone has said acidly, "they take dictation". The dictation transmitted by Ms. Rice from Bush to our world is grim, brutal, and horrific. It is also anti-Catholic. It includes planning, executing, publicly defending a war condemned by the Pope; a war whose chief victims are Iraqi children, women, the ill and the aged. It includes vast areas seeded with depleted uranium, the slaughter in Afghanistan, and the threat of a strike against Iran.

Ms. Rice richly deserves a Dishonorable Degree. Let her receive this loud and clear from our hands, with our voices on May 22nd.

Those who conceived and huckstered this tawdry stunt, Jesuits and others, deserve the same. They have disgraced the Jesuits and Boston College. Let this honor be theirs as well.

Daniel Berrigan, S.J.  
New York City